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## The Brooklyn Paper

Including Carroll Gardens-Cobble Hill Paper, The Downtown News, Fort Greene-Clinton Hill Paper and DUMBO Paper

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# SHOWTIME

## Ratner, Nets deal near

By Deborah Kolben  
The Brooklyn Papers

Developer Bruce Ratner is this close to bringing the New Jersey Nets to Brooklyn, sources close to the negotiations said this week.

Ratner wants to build a Frank Gehry-designed state-of-the-art arena for the team at Flatbush and Atlantic avenues.

Details of the more than \$300 million sale are still being worked out and a final an-

nouncement could come "any day now," sources close to the negotiations told The Brooklyn Papers on Thursday.

"If and when it becomes a reality it would be a dream come true for Brooklyn and for me," said Borough President Marty Markowitz, who has been championing the effort to bring a professional sports team back to Brooklyn ever since he took office in 2002.

Ratner was reportedly in final negotiations to purchase

the reigning NBA Eastern Conference champions and bring them to Downtown Brooklyn. Some published reports cited sources saying that the owners of the Nets were now negotiating exclusively with Ratner.

Ratner spokesman Joe Deplasco declined to comment on the negotiations. Alice McGilligan, a spokesman for Nets parent company YankeeNets, also declined to comment.

The second highest bid has been from New Jersey real es-

tate developer Charles Kushner and Sen. Jon Corzine (D-N.J.), who together have bid \$267.6 million to keep the team in the Garden State.

Reached Thursday, a spokesman for Kushner insisted they are still in the running to purchase the team.

"It's the furthest thing from the truth as far as we know," said Michael Turner, a Kushner spokesman. "While our bid contains certainties including an existing arena, [the] Brooklyn bid is based on speculation and uncertainties and contingencies that have yet to be explained."

Asked whether they had, or would, up their bid, Turner said they were "currently reviewing the financials." He said they had heard that an answer would come later this month.

New York financier, Stuart Feldman, reportedly has the third-highest bid at \$257.5 million.

If Ratner is successful, and should he get approval to build the arena — the plan has the support of the mayor and borough president and opposition to the arena has thus far been limited to residents and elected officials in the area where it would be built — the Nets would be the first big-league sports team in the borough since Walter O'Malley moved his Dodgers to Los Angeles in 1957. O'Malley had wanted to build a new stadium for his team at roughly the same site as Ratner has planned for the Nets but the city refused to cede the land to him, preferring he build a stadium out in Flushing, Queens, where Shea Stadium was eventually built.

At the center of the plan, which Ratner is calling Brooklyn Atlantic Yard for the Long Island Rail Road storage yards it would sit atop, is a glass-enclosed, 19,000-seat arena at the corner of Flatbush and Atlantic avenues at the nexus of Downtown Brooklyn, Boerum Hill, Park Slope, Fort Greene and Prospect Heights.

Flanked by four sweeping skyscrapers and marked with Gehry's trademark wave-like walls and sculptural design,



The Brooklyn Papers: Chris Maytag

## Snow beautiful

Not a snow could be found at the Prospect Park Boathouse just after the snow stopped falling Thursday morning. The first snowstorm of 2004 dropped nearly six inches on the borough.

## Foes of arena keep heat on



The Brooklyn Papers: Chris Maytag

By Deborah Kolben  
The Brooklyn Papers

As temperatures dipped well below freezing, former Yankee all-star pitcher Jim Bouton took to the streets of Prospect Heights Wednesday morning with reporters and local residents in tow.

While Bouton now lives in Massachusetts and hasn't pitched for the Bronx Bombers in close to 40 years, the man who exposed the seamy underside of baseball in his 1970 book "Ball Four" came to Brooklyn this week to rally against a professional basketball arena proposed for construction at Atlantic and Flatbush avenues.

The tour capped a two-day whirlwind of speaking engagements, book signings, and rallies for Bouton, who recently published his second book, "Foul Ball," an in-depth diary of his fight to save Walmuchah Park in Pittsfield, Mass., one of the oldest baseball fields in the country. A group of developers wanted to tear it down and build a new one a couple of miles away.

Bouton says the fight in Prospect Heights is no different.

"You're not alone, this is an issue nationwide," Bouton told about 100 anti-arena activists gathered in the backroom of Freddy's, a prohibition-era bar on Sixth Avenue at Dean Street that would be taken by eminent domain to build the stadium.

See **PROTEST PLAN** on page 7

SEE LETTERS  
PAGE 4

## A DOGGONE SHAME

### Slope breeder: Vet faked my pet's death

By Deborah Kolben  
The Brooklyn Papers

Not a day goes by that Desmond Robertson doesn't think about his beloved Alice, a cream-colored French bulldog with a "kick up her heels kind of attitude" and impressive resume that includes an appearance on the "Live with Regis and Kathy Lee" TV show.

When Alice came down with cancer about two years ago, Robertson made a vow that he would not let his pup suffer. So when Alice started showing signs of pain, Robertson made an appointment with a local veterinarian.

After watching two uncles fight losing battles against the disease, Robertson, a professional dog breeder, decided he wanted his own dog to go gracefully.

"I believed she should die with dignity," Robertson told The Brooklyn Papers this week in his garden apartment tucked away on a quiet Park Slope street.

So on a cold day in November 2002, after watching Alice chase her last squirrel, Robertson brought his pet, a winning show dog and faithful companion of 11



Desmond Robertson with his two French bulldogs, Emma and Shug, in their Park Slope home.

years, to the Prospect Park Animal Clinic to be put to sleep and cremated.

And then he cried for days.

"A dog is like a child," said Robertson, who was too distraught to stay and watch Alice take her last breaths.

That's a move he regrets to this day.

With four other French bulldogs, and a black cat named Mr. Boo, the 43-year-old animal lover, who often houses stray pets tried to move on.

But when he returned to the clinic two months later to pick up Alice's ashes and for an appointment with another one of his Frenchies, as the bulldogs are affectionately known, a patron in the waiting room told him one of the clinic's veterinarians now owned a similar-looking bulldog — and that her name was Alice.

That's when Robertson went berserk.

"That's my dog!" screamed the British-born canine enthusiast, who busted into the veterinarian's office and demanded the doctor hand over Alice.

Alice, as it turns out, had not been put to sleep at all.

Instead she had been taken home by a

See **DOGGONE SHAME** on page 6

## Teen raped at center

By Deborah Kolben  
The Brooklyn Papers

An emotionally disturbed teenage boy was raped inside his room at the Atlantic Transitional Center in Boerum Hill this week by another male resident of the facility, police said.

The violent attack once again raised questions about the safety of those served by the city-run facility and their Boerum Hill neighbors, as well as the adequacy of the youth home's staff. Just last month the victim was held captive in his room and beaten by a different attacker, according to police.

According to the Brooklyn district attorney's office, the teen was assaulted on Jan. 8 by a 17-year-old boy who forced his way into the room and threatened him, claiming he would shoot the victim if he did not have sex with him. The criminal complaint states that the victim repeatedly asked the assailant to leave, but the assailant pushed him onto the bed, pulled down his pants and raped him just before 3 a.m.

Itate that nothing was being

done to protect the facility's residents, an employee from the center contacted The Brooklyn Papers this week. He said the assailant was HIV-positive, a fact confirmed by law enforcement sources.

The employee, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said he was concerned that the victim, who was transferred to another facility, would not get the proper counseling. He also said more and better staffing was needed.

Police arrested the alleged rapist, who was charged with sexual abuse, sodomy, sexual misconduct, reckless endangerment and unlawful imprisonment.

If convicted he could face up to seven years in prison.

For years, community residents and elected officials have lobbied the city to close down the facility at 316 Atlantic Ave. between Smith and Hoyt streets.

The home, run by the city's Administration for Children's Services (ACS), is a form of foster care for youths between the ages of 15 and 21 who cannot be returned to their homes because of abuse, neglect or abandonment. Many have a history of emotional and behavioral problems and their length of stay varies from one to 90 days, although critics have charged some stay longer.

Valerie Gold, the director of the facility, said she could not comment and referred calls to ACS.

"The staff work to ensure the safety of all residents," said ACS spokeswoman Elyse Carnevale, when asked about the incident this week.

The facility is staffed full-time by a minimum of four counselors and a security guard, said Carnevale, who asked that following the two attacks, the current staffing and security is being reevaluated.

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# Carroll Gardens loses beloved 'veggie stand'

By Kristen Hinman  
for The Brooklyn Papers

Carroll Gardens has lost one of its most colorful characters and with her a neighborhood institution that harked back to the area's Italian immigrant roots.

Frances Vuoso, 84, owner of the George & Son Fruit Market on Court Street between Second Place and Third Place, suffered a fatal heart attack on Nov. 8. The store, called "the veggie stand" by residents, has been shuttered ever since.

A neighborhood fixture for the last 75 years, George & Son had been struggling, and a tenant in the building says Vuoso's son, Jerry Vuoso, will not reopen the business.

Until she died, Frances would money downstairs from her apartment most days that George & Son was open to work at Jerry's side. In between snippets of Italian conversation with longtime customers and friends, she puttered back and forth inside the store, never sitting still for long.

"Ma, you got a ten?" Jerry would ask when making change for a customer.

An ancient cash register hulked in the corner of the store, but Frances Vuoso stashed most of the bills in the frayed pockets of her floral smock.

How many years had she kept that routine?

"Fohgoddabutta!" she grunted during a conversation earlier this fall. Too many to count.

George & Son was opened in 1928, when Frances' father-in-law arrived in Carroll Gardens from Italy. He painted the storefront chestnut-brown, hung two 32-pound scales in the rear of the shop and placed a manual, cha-ching cash register in the left-hand corner. Every original accoutrement remained.

The only wall not stacked with blond honeydew melons or sparkling lemons was plastered with roughly 70 pictures



Shuttered George & Son Fruit Market, on Court Street near Second Place, displays a sign honoring Frances Vuoso, "Beloved by all who had the pleasure of knowing her" [at left].

and postcards: Frances sweeping the sidewalk, her grandson becoming a firefighter, the Last Supper.

Frances' husband took over George & Son some 50 years ago, and Jerry became the delivery boy at age 12. Customers tipped him in milk bottles, he said, worth 2 cents for each return.

"A quarter was a great tip," he said. "You got it sometimes if you had to go up and down stairs twice."

At 15, Jerry left school. Now 62, he had worked full-time at George & Son ever since, sharing his favorite Italian recipes, like macaroni with broccoli rabe, with a dwindling number of Italian-American customers.

Broccoli rabe is an old standby of family-style, Italian cuisine. But fewer and fewer of George & Son's shoppers

recognized the dark green head of ferns and edible, tender stems.

That's partly because much of the neighborhood's old crop of Italian-American residents has fled to the suburbs or states with warmer climates. And also because the new crop — young, urban professionals of various ethnic backgrounds — don't worship the kitchen.

"The old-timers aren't here cooking anymore," Frances lamented a few months ago.

"The veggie stand" was by no means Carroll Gardens' last mom-and-pop business. But in food — as much an anchor of Italian-American culture as family — George & Son represented a wilting species. Two years ago, a typical Friday would find Vuoso filling between 15 and 20 delivery orders. Fridays this fall

he packed up one, maybe two.

Bette Stoltz, executive director of the South Brooklyn Local Development Corporation, says Carroll Gardens has always favored "homegrown retail."

Of the nearly 500 stores in the neighborhood, between 60 and 75 percent, Stoltz estimated, are mom-and-pop varieties, in which the owner operates the business and often lives upstairs.

But home furnishings and clothing now dominate the startup generation of Carroll Gardens' mom-and-pops, she added, and like in other areas of New York, Koreans and Hispanics are moving into the grocery business.

Jerry began most days at 4:30 am by driving to wholesale food markets in Canastota or Hunts Point. He never read produce labels.

"I taste it," he said. "If it's good, I buy it."

By 8 am, a sidewalk table in front of 414 Court St. would teem with California nectarines, and wrinkled cardboard signs, handwritten in red and green, would flash the standard price for nearly all of the store's produce: 99 cents a pound.

The market's prices matched those of the four other Court Street groceries one day this fall. Prices at the Key Food supermarket across the street were slightly higher. But when Key Food ran a sale on 99-cent produce, Jerry said he felt the effect. "I can't compete because of the volume," he said. "They buy up an entire item, and nobody else can buy anything."

He estimated George & Son's sales had declined 10 percent to 20 percent each year since Sept. 11, 2001. After the attacks, he said, many long-time Carroll Gardens residents left New York. Vuoso's neighbor and tenant, Marty Jacobs, said revenues for his business, Marty's Coffee Break, had also plummeted.

"There are no people left at home," Jacobs said. "The wives and the husbands work." Since Jacobs closes at 5 pm, he gets little business from working couples, he said.

Jerry, meanwhile, said he couldn't compete with chain supermarkets like Fairway, which is building a megastore in neighboring Red Hook, or big-box warehouse stores like Costco in Sunset Park.

For many customers, a shuttered George & Son's will sever a lifeline. "It reminds me of my grandparents, the type of foods they fixed, and their gardens," said Christine Pinabona, of Denmet Place (which connects Laquer to Nelson streets between Court and Smith). A third-generation Italian-American, her family immigrated to New York from Sicily.

"Everything here," she said of the vegetable store, "works its way into dinner."



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# Gunpoint robbery at Slope realtor

By Deborah Kolben  
The Brooklyn Papers

Two gun-toting thugs looking for some quick cash busted into a real estate office on Second Street near Fifth Avenue at 3:15 pm on Jan. 9.

After ringing the office buzzer the men were let in and only then flashed their weapons.

One of the suspects threw an employee to the ground and demanded, "Where's the cash?" The employee led the men to a file cabinet with \$2,300 tucked away in the back of a drawer.

But that wasn't enough to satisfy the pair and they demanded more. When there was none to be had, the bandits grew irate.

"I find more money somebody is going to die," the suspect said before taking another employee's cell phone and a wallet with \$200 in it.

The suspects then fled towards Fourth Avenue, police said.

**Lies in wait**

A woman was grabbed by a waiting attacker and slammed against a wall just after entering

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a building on 14th Street near Fifth Avenue at 12:45 am on Jan. 10.

The suspect pulled out a black handgun and rained off a litany of instructions including that she shut up, not look at him and fork over some money.

The victim, 25, lost her wallet, cell phone and iPod MP3 player in the attack, police said.

**Subway attack**

A 27-year-old woman waiting for the M train on Jan. 9 was attacked from behind at 9:50 am at the Ninth Street and Fourth Avenue subway station.

After trying to unsuccessfully yank a gold chain off the victim's neck, the miscreant punched the victim in the head and kicked her in the ribs.

**Diner pick**

An elderly woman was robbed of her pension money at a diner on Fifth Avenue at 10th Street just after noon on Jan. 7.

The victim, 80, headed over to the diner after cashing her check at a bank across the street. After a group, including two women and a man, brushed against her, the victim noticed that all \$495 was missing.

**Prada poacher**

It's all fun and games until somebody gets their designer purse stolen.

A 24-year-old woman patronizing a bar on Fifth Avenue and Union Street had her Prada bag stolen after she put it down on a table and turned away, police said.

The designer heist occurred

sometime between 12:30 am and 3 am on Jan. 3. The thief got away with the brown leather bag, \$15 in cash and a \$20 Metrocard.

**GAP muggers**

A woman had her purse snatched while walking home through Grand Army Plaza at 6 pm on Jan. 6.

The victim, 19, said she was approached by a band of thieves, who grabbed the bag and then fled. In addition to a wallet, the thieves got away with \$5, a pair of earrings and the victim's passport.

**Fully loaded**

A motorist parked his car, packed full with luggage and electronics, on Flatbush Avenue at Pacific Street at 9:10 am on Jan. 4.

But when he returned an hour later the car was missing.

The stolen goods included an IBM Thinkpad computer, valued at \$3,000, a Tumi bag, a garment bag, assorted clothing and the 2001 Honda Accord.

**Gun club**

When a man returned home to his apartment on Union Street at Fifth Avenue after being gone for just a day, he found the front door busted in and his gun locker forced open.

While no weapons were taken, an assortment of accessories was removed including ammunition, long rifle rounds, a gun-cleaning kit and registration papers for the rifles.

The incident occurred sometime between Jan. 3 at noon and 5:10 pm the next day.

## Year of the Monkey celebrations in Bklyn

By Jotham Sederstrom  
The Brooklyn Papers

Two separate Chinese New Year events in Brooklyn next weekend will celebrate the start of the Year of the Monkey, a zodiac sign characterized by mavericks and rebels.

The 15-day lunar holiday, which this year begins on Jan. 22 and ends on Feb. 6, should draw thousands to Sunset Park and BoroPark, say organizers.

The Brooklyn Public Library will also host a series of readings, music and films in celebration of Chinese calendar year 4701 at the Central Branch at Grand Army Plaza. Those events begin at 11 am on Jan. 24.

"It's the biggest celebration for the Asian community in the whole world," said Paul Mak, president of the Brooklyn Chinese-American Association, which will host one of the parades along with the Brooklyn United Chinese Association next Sunday. "In Brooklyn's Chinatown, it's the most celebrated holiday of the year."

The 16th annual Brooklyn Chinese-American Association parade, on Jan. 25, is expected to draw 20,000 revelers to Fifth Street at Eighth Avenue in Sunset Park. Borough President

Marty Markowitz is expected to attend the all-day event, which begins at noon and winds down to Eighth Avenue at 61st Street.

Among the events along the parade route, the Kung-Fu exhibition should be a crowd pleaser, said Mak, but he added that the fireworks display, in its second year since the post-9-11 ban was lifted, would add to the excitement as well.

The highlight of the day, however, will be the lion dance, a traditional performance acted out during the first days of the New Year that's said to bring good luck to the homes and businesses it passes. Dressed in a lion costume, two dancers control the head and tail of the lion while musicians bang on drums, gongs and cymbals. The whole frenzied performance may look chaotic, but it involves years of practice, said Steve Chung, president of the Brooklyn United Chinese Association.

"It's a very complicated procedure," said Chung. "It's not as simple as when you watch it."

The Year of the Monkey will be a good one for people born in 1992, 1980 and 1968, the last three years the primate was celebrated, according to tradition. Monkeys get along swimmingly

with rats, which last celebrated in 1996.

Famous births during years of the monkey include President Harry Truman and Julius Caesar, both of whom share the primate's proclivity for cleverness and ability to wiggle out of tight situations.

"They are smart, they are lively and they are risk takers," said Chung, who, like Markowitz, is a motorist.

The Brooklyn United Chinese Association will host a more intimate parade a day earlier on Saturday, Jan. 24, that will begin on 86th Street at Bay 25th Street in BoroPark and proceed to 18th Avenue and 60th Street. Assemblyman William Colton, a co-sponsor of the event, is also expected to join in the festivities.

Chung said the parade would also include a lion dance featuring two custom-made costumes imported from China.

### LEGAL NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that JERRY BERTHOLD, last known residing at 2121 Foster Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11222, will be the subject of a hearing on February 4, 2004, before the Honorable Justice Yvonne Lewis, at the Kings County Supreme Courtroom, 380 Adams St., Brooklyn, of a Motion by Steven A. Karp, Associate, to withdraw as said individual's attorney in BERTHOLD v. FETTER, Index #0404020.

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# Smart television habits

**Q:** My 3-year-old is picking up a few words like "stupid" and "dumb" from cartoons, and, hearing my son say those words makes my husband and others laugh. Of course that just makes my son repeat them. How can I get my family to cooperate and not encourage this behavior? — a mother

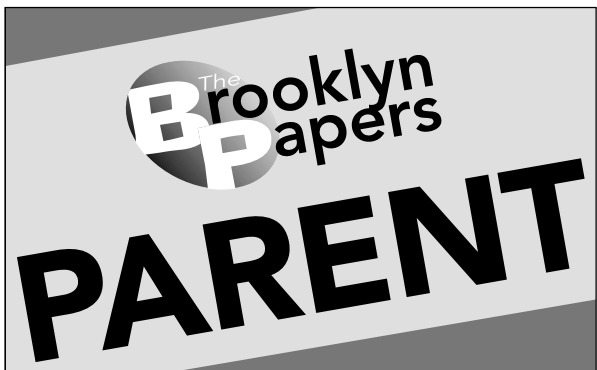
**A:** Approach the problem in a different way. Turn off the offensive cartoons, no Dad.

As toddlers and preschoolers pick up new words, they're sure to parrot catch phrases they hear on shows and commercials — even if they have no clue what they're saying. They might also pick up other bad habits, such as sassy attitudes or hitting to solve problems. Is it going to be you, or the television, who is your child's earliest, most influential teacher?

"You know the old saying: 'Garbage in, garbage out.' I would suggest watching only one or two good quality shows a day, and watch them with your son," one reader says. "Then turn the TV off, and let him play."

As children build their vocabularies, they typically improve their language skills when adults respond to them, initiate conversation and add words to what their kids say — "Yes, you have a red ball." Television doesn't offer these advantages, but there are choices that can be both entertaining and educational without violence or inappropriate language.

Here's how one mother quickly put a stop to the "you dumb babies" phrase her preschooler acquired from a cartoon. On channel 4 of week 1, she had heard enough. She then involved her kids in setting up new TV rules, and sent



her son to his room until there was no more talk of "dumb babies."

Dad needs to stop laughing at his son's remarks and start telling the child that "stupid" isn't a nice word to use, one father suggests, and Mom needs to be firm about what she wants as a parental team. For the under-2 bunch, the American Academy of Pediatrics urges parents not to let them watch television. After age 2, limit television to no more than one or two hours of quality programs a day, the organization suggests.

One way to stay within these guidelines, some parents find, is to help their kids get into the habit of watching a favorite program or two, then turning off the television. That

## Parent-to-Parent



By Betty Flieger

means no channel surfing. Just like family members need help to develop healthy eating and sleeping habits, they need

limits to develop appropriate TV habits.

Ratings will help but don't give the whole picture. It's up to parents to glean the good out of television and avoid the bad. That's the philosophy behind "The Smart Parent's Guide to Kids' TV" (KQED, 1994) by Milton Kent, PhD, an expert in educational media.

He has worked in program development for "Sesame Street" and "Electric Company" and is a former director of the Center for Education and Lifelong Learning at PBS member station KQED in San Francisco.

With more TV options, selecting the right programs for kids is a challenge. Copies of "The Smart Parent's Guide to

Kids' TV" are available for \$8.95 plus shipping and handling by calling Public TV Books toll free at (800) 358-3000.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends the book and suggests parents:

- Chart all TV shows your family watches within a week. Discuss which programs are worthwhile and which can be dropped in favor of other activities.
- Read TV listings and reviews.
- Preview programs before your kids see them. Talk to friends, teachers and pediatricians to learn what they recommend.
- Select TV programs that build interest in other activities, such as reading, hobbies or the outdoors.
- Look for shows with educational content and positive characters and values.
- Take advantage of high-quality programs offered on video/cassettes or from other sources.

For more information on children's programming without commercials on PBS, plus resources on how to use television as a learning tool, go to PBS online at [www.pbs.org](http://www.pbs.org).

**Can you help?**

"We think our 9-year-old granddaughter has dyslexia. She's failing nearly everything in third grade and has been diagnosed with ADHD. We have raised her most of her life, since her mother died when she was one year old. She is having a terrible time socially, at home, and in school and we don't know what to do." — a grandmother

If you have a tip or a question, call our toll-free hotline any time at (800) 827-1092 or e-mail us at [p2p@pbs.org](mailto:p2p@pbs.org).

Parents concerned about their children's caloric intake can obtain a copy of the new *Parent to Parent* newsletter "Getting Over Overeating" by sending a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope and \$2 to Newsletter, Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092.

All five stages of dating are covered in detail in my book "Mars and Venus on a Date."

# MTA big denies cover-up over Ratner stadium

## LETTERS

To the editor:

This is in response to the article that appeared in your Dec. 22 edition headlined, "MTA big covers air rights gaff." I would like to set the record straight with regard to the MTA's position regarding the possible development over the LIRR train yards in Downtown Brooklyn.

The MTA does not have any agreement with Forest City Ratner concerning the construction of an arena or anything else over the LIRR train yards in Brooklyn.

At the present time, the LIRR has a functioning train yard at Flatbush and Atlantic avenues and requires the continued use of that train yard in order to continue its train service to and from Brooklyn. It has not been determined whether the reconfiguration of railroad functions within the existing yard is feasible.

However, a feasibility study has been commenced, and Forest City Ratner will be required to pay the costs of the feasibility study.

In the event that the study demonstrates that development over the yard is feasible, any proposed project would be the subject of full environmental review, including the opportunity for extensive public participation. Any developer would also be required to pay any costs incurred by the MTA for design and construction.

The MTA's position with regard to this issue has been consistent. I hope this issue is now clarified.

— Katherine Lapp, Executive Director and CEO, Metropolitan Transportation Authority

**Editor's note:** Ms. Lapp's letter does not address the primary point of the above-referenced article that the MTA's spokesman on three occasions insisted that Bruce Ratner held development rights to the train yard property and that the spokesman's assertion had been accurately reported by The Brooklyn Papers.

Ms. Lapp also fails to clarify the MTA's past and present relationship with Forest City Ratner and around the site.

## States of confusion

To the editor:

Do the politicians who supposedly lead our city and state think that no one is paying any attention?

First, the mayor in his "State of the City" attacks over-development in Staten Island and Bay Ridge.

Yet in the same speech Bloomberg enthusiastically supports a plan that would greatly over-develop several brownstone neighborhoods in Brooklyn — Bruce Ratner's arena with its millions of square feet of office and residential towers — and at taxpayer expense, no less.

Then, the governor now says he wants to see a plan to bring the train to the piers directly into Manhattan. Several sound transportation groups advised just that, repeatedly, for a number of years, with one option utilizing unused LIRR property.

Every other world-class city has, or is well on its way to, a "one seat" trip from airport to city center.

Pataki has had control over both the MTA and PATH — if he cares enough to lead.

Be assured that smart New Yorkers will be paying attention during future November.

— Paul Sheridan, Prospect Heights

## Call the fouls!

To the editor:

If I had a referee who was not intent on throwing the game, Ratner's slam dunk would be called a personal foul of Brooklyn.

— Stephen Arthur, Prospect Heights

## Our homes aren't blight

To the editor:

This letter concerns the pending sale of the Nets to Bruce Ratner, and the subsequent arena project in Brooklyn. I ask that (Borough President) Marty Markowitz respond to this letter, as I am one of the Brooklynites he promised to advocate for.

While I am pro-development, I am against the abuse of eminent domain and political favoritism embodied in the free public property and tax subsi-

dies that will be given to Bruce Ratner if his bid for the Nets is accepted. If this were to happen, I am left with unsettling questions.

What happens when the state, city and local government decide that they would rather have an arena where your home is?

You lose, your neighborhood is called "blighted" and your life as you know it is changed forever.

I live in one of the new condominiums that will be torn down while the paint is still drying to make way for the arena and I have several questions for Mr. Markowitz, which I hope he can clarify:

- What percentage of new stadiums have benefited the neighborhoods they are in (careful, I know the answer to this one and you do too).
- Why doesn't the arena plan optimize the use of the land which Bruce Ratner's failing Atlantic Center occupies so that eminent domain does not need to be invoked to displace more than 1,000 homeowners, business people and renters? This project can work without demolishing the neighborhoods which we have worked so hard to create for each other.
- Where in the Constitution does it say that Public land may be given to private parties for private profit? (Did I miss that part? I only glanced at it.)
- "Living across from the train yards, I am very concerned with the chemicals that have permeated the soil from the standing train cars. Please describe the soil reclamation process that will take place if an arena is built here as well as any Department of Environmental Protection involvement to date.
- Thank you for your time, Mr. Markowitz. I look forward to hearing from you.
- I apologize for the sarcasm in this letter — it comes from a profound sadness at the prospect of unfairly losing the home and community that have taken me so long to find.

— Irvin Glasman, Prospect Heights

## Regarding Marty

To the editor:

I write regarding Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz's letter to the editor in the Jan. 10 edition of The Brooklyn Papers ("Markowitz responds to arena critics"). In trying to make a point about the benefits of the arena proposal, Mr. Markowitz argues, "The immediate neighborhood would flourish."

Avenues such as Atlantic, Flatbush, Carlton and Vanderbilt that already boast many successful businesses would grow into even more thriving shopping and entertainment destinations.

We would like to invite Mr. Markowitz to accompany members of the Carlton-Wiloughby Block Association on a walking tour of Carlton Avenue in Fort Greene and Prospect Heights.

By including Carlton Avenue in his list of "thriving shopping and entertainment destinations," Mr. Markowitz shows that he doesn't know the residential nature of our street.

And the impact of his not knowing this — as plans for the arena proposal barrel forward — could be devastating to our neighborhoods.

After walking eight, beautiful, tree-lined blocks along Carlton Avenue — from Flatbush Avenue in Prospect Heights to Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene — Mr. Markowitz will find only one business.

That's it! One. No "thriving shopping or entertainment destinations." Just one small neighborhood market on one quiet corner. And that's OK because — as our borough president will find out — these are residential neighborhoods!

They are destinations all right — destinations for the people who live here and are coming home.

The almost certain side effects of the arena proposal — and its office and residential components — will be significant and to our neighbors and must be dealt with now.

Already, Carlton Avenue is considered a shortcut to the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway by drivers who consider its stoplights and speed limits "optional." On some nights, how will traffic be contained to major avenues?

So, Mr. Markowitz, please contact us at your earliest convenience. You'll find it's a beautiful walk here along Carlton Avenue in Prospect Heights and Fort Greene. And it will help us all if the players involved in this plan, including its biggest cheerleader, are aware that this is a residential street.

— Phillip Kellogg, secretary Carlton-Wiloughby Block Association

## Wrong place for arena

To the editor:

I have a serious question I want to know the answer to: When did Marty Markowitz stop being a man of the people and principles and start supporting absolutely wacky ideas like building a Nets stadium in the middle of one of the worst sites you could pick in Brooklyn? I mean, if you threw a dart at a map of Brooklyn you'd probably be able to find a better spot. Try it. I dare you.

Marty has turned into the proverbial polygrapher child when it comes to building gigantic monstrosities that are going to fracture neighborhoods and turn into nothing but traffic congestion and headaches for its residents. His record in supporting unhealthy development is nearly perfect in this sense. He certainly doesn't look to future impacts; his mind seems incapable of any long-range thought. Just "gimme, gimme," "more, more," like an out-of-control child.

Take, for example, his recent crusade to help get more testing and treatment for Brooklyn residents with asthma. If you look at all the development he sponsors and all the new parking and congestion it will bring, he is actually the worst nightmare for anyone who likes me. Shame on him!

And for a man who seems to love Brooklyn so much, he sure seems intent on destroying the Brooklyn experience. I think his secret plan is to make us as much like Manhattan as possible.

— Jackie Folger, Brownsville

## B'ball fan nixes plan

To the editor:

I love the Nets. I love basketball. But a stadium in the middle of one of the already most congested areas of Brooklyn? Marty, you've got to be kidding.

Let's look at what this "project" will bring: more traffic, more noise, more pollution, more inconvenience, more cases of asthma, less safe streets for pedestrians and cyclists, more traffic delays, lots of headaches in lawsuit after lawsuit, and don't forget: tons of our city \$\$\$ to "subsidize" all of this, money which could be spent on schools, building parks or lessening our tax burden.

Oh, I guess it will also bring us the Nets. Big deal. Let's not make another mistake on the scale of Robert Moses.

— Tom Rorh, Carroll Gardens

## They're not a member

To the editor:

In the article "D'Town Plan hearing Thurs" (Jan. 10) the Metrotech Business Improvement District is mentioned as a member of the Downtown Brooklyn Coalition.

This is not the case. Although representatives of the BID have attended a few meetings with this group, we have not been present at any vote to support a position.

— Michael Weiss, Executive Director, Metrotech BID

# Passion demands you move your kids out of bedroom

Dear John:

My husband and I have two children, ages 2 and 4. Since their births, we've gotten into the habit of allowing them to sleep with us in our bed. Of course, this has put a damper on sex and romance.

My husband is growing distant, but I am worried that tossing the kids out of the bed will cause them some emotional damage. Will it?

— Four's a Crowd in Pasadena, Calif.

**Dear Four's a Crowd:** The communal bed is a natural instinct. Still, you can have passion without privacy, so don't feel guilty about starting this habit and then ending it.

The goal is to make a successful transition.

It may take a month or more, but start immediately by

## MEN ARE FROM MARS WOMEN ARE FROM VENUS

So you go away with a guy for a wonderful vacation, no hassles, everything humky-dory, but after you come back, he wants his space! What does that mean? — **Dropped Cold**

**Dear Dropped Cold:** It means that you jumped them in the gun assuming that you can move into Stages Three and Four of dating. Exclusivity and Intimacy, without first

moving your children into their own beds after they've fallen asleep. For staying put, reward them with stories at bedtime or "wake up" surprises left next to their beds as they sleep.

Also, allowing the children

to help decorate their space (by arranging the room, picking out a comforter, bed table or lamp, or making pictures for the wall) will reinforce the notion that their rooms are a part of their individual personality, and this will instill a sense of pride. With patience, you'll succeed in convincing them that sleeping in their own beds is not a punishment but a reward.

\*\*\*

**Dear John:** So you go away with a guy for a wonderful vacation, no hassles, everything humky-dory, but after you come back, he wants his space! What does that mean? — **Dropped Cold**

**Dear Dropped Cold:** It means that you jumped them in the gun assuming that you can move into Stages Three and Four of dating. Exclusivity and Intimacy, without first

moving your children into their own beds after they've fallen asleep. For staying put, reward them with stories at bedtime or "wake up" surprises left next to their beds as they sleep.

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# Supreme Court deaf to appeal by O'Hara

By Deborah Kolben  
The Brooklyn Papers

"It's back to the chain gang," John Kennedy O'Hara told The Brooklyn Papers just moments after being told the U.S. Supreme Court will not hear his appeal.

The "chain gang" to which he refers is the community service duty — picking up trash in city parks — to which he reports weekly in Bay Ridge. O'Hara's crime: voting in Sunset Park.

But that's the Reader's Digest version.

O'Hara, a former attorney who made five unsuccessful bids for public office, was arrested and convicted for voting more than a decade ago from an address that was not his primary residence. The only other person ever convicted for voting — suffragist Susan B. Anthony in 1873.

A decade, three trials and a number of appeals later, O'Hara tried to take his case to the U.S. Supreme Court. But on Monday the court's nine justice's denied his request.

"Ain't not much above that," O'Hara said.

"I always knew it was a long shot," said his attorney, Barry Fallick, who has argued other cases before the Supreme Court.

While the news came as a

disappointment to O'Hara, he said he was glad that he pursued the appeal.

"At least I stood my ground," said O'Hara, who has long claimed the charges against him were politically motivated.

O'Hara was disbarred and sentenced to 1,500 hours of community service as a result of his conviction.

"It's not surprising that they didn't take the case. There is no constitutional issue," said Deputy District Attorney John O'Mara, the lead prosecutor handling the O'Hara case for District Attorney Charles Hynes.

"He ran frequently for office in order to convince people to vote for him. He wanted to convince people that he lived in the area he wanted to represent," O'Mara said.

O'Hara, 42, who three times failed in Democratic primary bids for Assembly and twice for City Council, was indicted on seven felony counts in October 1996 for registering to vote and voting from a temporary address four years earlier. Hynes contended that O'Hara registered to vote from an address on 47th Street in Sunset Park while he maintained a permanent residence on 61st Street.

First convicted in 1997, that decision was overturned on appeal. Hynes tried him again the next year. The result — a hung jury. A persistent Hynes retried O'Hara the next year.



John O'Hara

winning a conviction.

Since then it's been one unsuccessful appeal after another. The state's highest court ruled against him 5-2 in June 2001, although, in the dissenting opinion, Judge Albert Rosenblatt said that according to previous cases, which established that it was possible to vote from a secondary residence, O'Hara's 47th Street address was permissible.

In the only other criminal case involving voter residency in New York State, the indictment of a Bronx man running for school board was overturned in a decision that was upheld by the state's highest court in 1994. In that case, the court ruled that a candidate could choose another residence for voting purposes so long as it was not a sham address.

Rosenblatt also alluded to

the possibility that the charges against O'Hara were politically motivated. O'Hara has long contended that Hynes was behind the push to have his case tried so many times as it has been, and to have criminal charges brought against him.

"If politically charged disputes such as this and questions of 'residence' are going to be resolved in the criminal arena and decided by juries... we should ensure that the definition of residence is plainly fixed and easily understood," Rosenblatt wrote in his dissent.

"They claimed it was not my principal and permanent address. That's true. It wasn't," said O'Hara, who readily admitted that he registered to vote from his former girlfriend's address.

But according to O'Mara, O'Hara's girlfriend had already moved out of that address and O'Hara was claiming to live in the basement.

That basement, O'Mara claims, was not even a finished apartment.

Asked why Hynes pursued the case so fervently, O'Mara said it was brought to the DA's attention by the state elections commission.

"If you get 1,000 people speeding you don't expect 1,000 to be pulled over," O'Mara said. "Usually it's the one weaving in and out and side to side and going the fastest."

## Schumer: Terror check the ships

Associated Press

The Department of Homeland Security should expand its screening technology for foreign visitors to include New York's passenger ship terminal, Sen. Charles Schumer said Tuesday.

"If there's anything we've learned since 9-11, it's you can't be too careful," said Schumer. "We plug one hole dealing with anti-terrorism but leave another one open, they'll find the one that's open."

The screening program, called US-VISIT, or U.S. Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology, was implemented last week and is expected to check up to 24 million foreigners each year.

Travelers press their index fingers onto an inkless scanner and have their photographs taken as they make their way through Customs. The photos and fingerprints are then checked against terrorist watch lists and a national criminal database.

The security checks target foreigners entering the 115 U.S. airports and 14 major seaports — not including New York's, the Democratic senator said.

The city is currently negotiating with Carnival Cruise Lines to build a passenger ship dock at Pier 7 in Brooklyn, just south of Atlantic Avenue.

"It's great that we have the foreign visitors who check into JFK and Newark and La Guardia all being checked, but it makes no sense to not check them here at the passenger ship terminal," Schumer said at a news conference at the terminal on the Hudson River.

He said the terminal is the largest U.S. passenger seaport outside of Florida and can accommodate five full-size cruise ships at a time.

"That's a pretty big site to skip," Schumer said.

Mike Milne, a spokesman for U.S. Customs and Border Protection, said the screening program would be expanded to all points of entry, including land border crossings, within the next year or two.

He did not know the date by which New York's passenger seaport would be included.

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## Students 'can' soon-to-open shelter in Carroll Gardens

By Deborah Kolben  
The Brooklyn Papers

Sometimes it's the small gestures that mean the most.

When residents start moving into a shelter for battered women opening in Carroll Gardens this month, they will have a full pantry of food.

That's due in part to a group of mostly immigrant students at a small college in Queens, made up mostly of recent immigrants, who organized a food drive when they learned about the facility for Asian women and the opposition it was facing from some neighbors.

The Long Island Business Institute students handed over seven boxes of non-perishable food at a ceremony at Borough Hall Thursday afternoon.

"My heart is really full," said Kyung Yoon, chairwoman of the New York Asian Women's Center, which will operate the 20-bed shelter out of a four-family building on residential street.

Rose House, as the facility is to be

known, is named for the previous owner of the house, who also surrounded her home with rose bushes that blossom in the spring.

"When the women go to the kitchen and use the cupboard [they will] see it full with the food and love and care that New Yorkers have shown them," Yoon said, facing a table piled with canned corn, apple sauce, flour, Ronzoni pasta, Cheerios and Chinese sweets.

Councilman John Liu, of Queens, the only Asian-American member of the City Council, joined the students at Borough Hall as they handed over seven boxes of food.

Yoon thanked Liu along with Councilman Bill DeBlasio and Assemblywoman Joan Millman who have been active in trying to diffuse the tensions in the neighborhood over the facility moving in.

The controversy over the residence began in August when neighbors got wind of the shelter and organized a meeting to denounce the plans.

While addresses of battered women's

shelters are kept confidential to protect the residents of the facility, an anti-shelter neighborhood group made every effort to publicize the address including posting it on signs, mailings and Web sites. They even took the facility operators to court to try and stop them from moving in.

But the New York Asian Women's Center is hoping that it's all behind them and plan on moving in soon pending final state approval from the Office of Children and Family Services.

In a further effort to ease community tensions, the elected officials announced the members they had each chosen to sit on a community advisory board to Rose House that was outlined in a memorandum of understanding signed last month.

Rep. Major Owens, state Sen. Martin Connor, Millman and DeBlasio all appointed representatives from their staffs. Borough President Marty Markowitz appointed Carroll Gardens resident Debra Scott, a local attorney and daughter of longtime community activist Buddy Scott.

## DOGGONE SHAME...

Continued from page 1

veternarian at the clinic, Dr. John Morehead, who took a liking to the show dog and decided to make her his own. French bulldogs like Alice generally cost about \$2,500.

"I really freaked out," said Robertson, who began seeing a therapist after the ordeal.

"It really brought up a lot of trust issues," he said. Ever since then Alice has been at the center of a heated custody battle between Robertson and the veterinarian paid to put her to sleep.

"One of our vets decided he could offer the dog a healthy home," said Dr. Leonard Silverman, who owns the Prospect Park Animal Clinic, on Prospect Park West at Fifth Street, explaining that Morehead opted to treat the tumor.

"This is not standard practice for us," added Silverman, who said in retrospect the clinic should have contacted Robertson to tell him of their decision.

While Silverman offered to refund the \$175 euthanasia cost, Morehead refused to return Alice, named for "The Color Purple" author Alice Walker, Robertson said.

Morehead said Robertson agreed to let him keep Alice after he discovered that she was alive.

"Subsequently he has continued to use the clinic and at no point has he asked about Alice or her health," said Morehead, casting doubts about Robertson's devotion to the pup.

But according to Robertson, he was strong-armed into the deal by Morehead, who said that treating Alice would be extremely costly and that he was free to pursue litigation.

While Morehead's doggy snatch may have broken the law, according to Hayley Greenberg, an animal rights attorney based in Manhattan, Robertson would be hard pressed to pursue his case in court.

"The vets get away with murder," Greenberg said. Even a clear malpractice case can take two to three years and the owner — unlike medical malpractice — is unlikely to recover enough money to even cover attorney fees, Greenberg said.

Under current law, pets are considered property. "It's the same if you take a chair somewhere and it gets destroyed. Try convincing a judge of emotional damages because I was attached to my chair," said Greenberg, who is also the president of Justice for Animals, a nonprofit animal rights group.

"The only thing vets have to worry about is if you fall at their office," she added.

Robertson has been living on worker's compensation following an accident at a four-star restaurant on Madison Avenue where he slipped on a tomato while on duty as waiter and fell down three flights of stairs. He says he is weighing his options with respect to Alice.

"She's my dog and I don't know what's happening to her," Robertson said while petting Shag and Emma, two of his other cream-colored Frenchies.

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Desmond Robertson (at right) with his prize-winning dog, Alice, at the Palisades Kennel Club dog show in 1994.

has been with the agency for more than 20 years.

But according to Greenberg, this kind of thing happens all the time.

If Robertson opted to pursue litigation he could sue for breach of contract, negligence, and intentional infliction of emotional distress, said Greenberg, who added that criminal charges might include fraud and theft.

Born in rural Pennsylvania on June 30, 1992 to bulldog parents Apple Cider and Varga Girl, Alice's certified pedigree traces her lineage back to 1981. Counted among her relatives are great-grandparents Twinkle Toes, Petite Flap Flap, Crepe Suzette and Unique Physique.

After a successful show career that once left Alice just a point away from champion status — her greatest win may have come more than a decade ago when she took first place as best puppy at the French Bulldog Club of America show — the spirited pup was forced into retirement when her teeth and skin began to say following her fourth litter, Robertson said.

Carrying on the tradition, Alice's grandson, Champion Yellow Vail's Thief of Heart's Milo, went on to take fifth place at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show at Madison Square Garden seven years ago.

Now Robertson says he has had it with showing and breeding all together.

"I think I'm moving upstate," said Robertson, who plans to open an antique store and live in peace with his small animal kingdom.

As for his fight to get Alice back, Robertson isn't ready to give up.

With tears swelling up in his eyes, Robertson vowed to fight on, saying, "I don't want people to go through what I've gone through."

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## Mulch ado about nothing

Green-Wood Cemetery President Richard Moylan, Borough President Marty Markowitz, Brooklyn Botanic Garden President Judith Zuck and Nicolas Pisano, vice president of the cemetery, help mulch the Borough Hall Christmas tree at the cemetery on Jan. 10. A plan was made to spread the mulch on the graves of past Brooklyn mayors, but cold weather put the kibosh on it.

## RATNER...

Continued from page 1

The plans also include 14 residential buildings providing an estimated 4,500 apartments.

The arena development site encompasses about six blocks, primarily in Prospect Heights, and is bounded by Dean Street and Flatbush, Atlantic and Vanderbilt avenues.

But there are still several obstacles Ratner must overcome to get the deal off the ground.

In order to complete the deal, Ratner needs to secure rights from the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to build over the LIRR yards and needs the state to condemn more than two square blocks of land, including two luxury condominium buildings and some small businesses.

The sale would have to be approved by three-fourths of the NBA's 28 team owners. Knicks President Charles Dolan has reportedly been lobbying NBA Commissioner Henry Stern not

to allow another team in the city.

A group of vocal neighborhood opponents — including Councilwoman Letitia James and state Sen. Velmanette Montgomery — have been trying to thwart the plan ever since they got wind of them in November.

Residents who would lose their homes have been meeting with attorneys to discuss how to defend themselves. The Prospect Heights Action Coalition, which has taken the lead in the fight to stop the arena, just this week brought in former Yankee pitcher Jim Bouton to tour the site and lead a rally against the arena.

Despite the announcements this week, some people still remain skeptical. [Ratner's] trying to make people think that everything is sewed up except for the final signature on the contract," Patti Hagan, a leader of the Prospect Heights Action Coalition, said. Jim DeBosh, a spokesman

for the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority, which operates the Meadowlands sports complex that includes the Nets' current home, the Continental Airlines Arena, says the group is still in discussions with Kushner over a \$150 million renovation of the arena including doubling the number of luxury boxes from 29 to 60.

"Anybody who says they have a deal sounds premature," DeBosh said Thursday.

## PROTEST PLAN...

Continued from page 1

Noting the similarities between his fight and theirs, he said that developers often use the same "fuzzy financing" and "secret meeting" tactics to make both stadium and arena deals.

Just last month, developer Bruce Ratner announced plans to buy the New Jersey Nets and bring them to Brooklyn by building what he is calling "Atlantic Yards," a \$2.5 billion housing and office complex centered around a 20,000-seat basketball arena. Renowned architect Frank Gehry has drawn up the designs.

The project would stretch from Flatbush to Vanderbilt avenues between Atlantic Avenue and Dean Street and would be built over the Long Island Rail Road yards.

Gov. George Pataki, Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Borough President Marty Markowitz are rallying behind the proposal in a growing group of opponents, many of whom are in danger of losing their homes, are fighting it. The Prospect Heights Action Coalition, which has been leading that fight, invited Bouton down from his home in Eggenston, Mass., to visit the site and talk about his own experiences fighting a sports complex plan.

At Freddy's, Bouton encouraged the opponents to fight the good fight.

Patti Hagan, a founding member of the coalition, announced the results of a community survey that she said found that more than 1,000 residents and workers in 71 buildings would be booted from their homes when the wrecking ball came.

"This is not ugly," Bouton exclaimed as he admired the industrial and residential buildings that would be razed to make way for the 17 towers reaching



Jim Bouton at Tuesday's rally.

as tall as 60 stories.

In order to build there Ratner would have to first obtain development rights over the Long Island Rail Road yards and get the state to take over two square blocks of privately owned property by eminent domain, a power of the government to seize private land for the public good.

The project, most of which is on MTA-owned land, would go through state review, bypassing the more rigorous city land use review process.

Spokespeople for both Ratner and the mayor have said the community will have input into the plan, but it is not clear what role, if any, the community will play.

The financing for the project is still not entirely clear.

Ratner, who is seeking Liberty Bonds to complete his New York Times building in Manhattan, has said he plans to use taxes generated from the arena everything from concession sales to players' multi-million salaries — to complete the surrounding office and residential buildings.

## RAPE...

Continued from page 1

"ACS does not have special guidelines for specifically serving HIV-positive children," Carnevale said when asked if the Atlantic Transitional Center regularly housed HIV-positive youths.

The rape elicited a split response: this week from the community, which has been fighting to close the center for more than 25 years.

Many vocal opponents of the center — including Assemblywoman Joan Millman and Councilman David Yassky — have taken a softer approach since Valerie Gold was installed as director of the facility in September 2002.

"A lot of people have turned their backs on the facility," said Millman, who has long called for its closing but is now calling on the community to take a more active involvement in improving the facility.

But many civic leaders who joined the Atlantic Transitional Center Advisory Council when it first formed seven years ago, are doubtful that anything will change.

"This place has always been a problem to the neighborhood," said Hellos Gruneberg, the former president of the Boerum Hill Association.

"They got it down to a science," said Gruneberg. "Fire the director, have meetings with the community and tell them, 'Oh I know we've had problems but give us a chance to work it out.'"

Sandy Balboza, president of the Atlantic Avenue Betterment Association and a former advisory council member, said she left the council because nobody listened to their concerns.

"We were stonewalled," said Balboza. "Even when we knew about things, they would say it's an isolated incident. How many isolated incidents can you have?"

"The community is not against the boys," she said. "We're against the city putting this facility here and not supervising and that's why we want it closed."

But Sue Wolfe, current president of the Boerum Hill Association, was more optimistic.

"We have to make the best of it and part of that is community participation," said Wolfe, who said she plans to join the advisory council.

In perhaps the most notorious incident at the center before the recent rape, a 15-year-old boy living there was tortured over a period of six hours during a weekend in October 2000 by four 17-year-old residents of the facility who beat him with a broken chair, burned him with a scalding-hot belt buckle and forced soiled underpants into his mouth in what police called a gang initiation.

In March 2001, a resident of the facility stabbed another in the back while four of them were on a trip to East New York on a day pass.

But over the past year the number of arrests at the center has decreased from 18 in 2002 to six in 2003, according to ACS.

"We've seen improvement," said Deputy Inspector Christopher Rising, commanding officer of the 84th Precinct.

According to Carnevale, that overall reduction in incidents requiring police attention can be attributed to the ongoing efforts of Gold and the work with the community involving the advisory council.

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# Rally to beat bush in P'Slope



Rep. Major Owens speaks out against the war in Iraq and corporate greed during "Rally to Beat Bush" Sunday.

**By Deborah Kolben**  
*The Brooklyn Papers*

With the Iowa caucuses just a week away, the Democratic presidential candidates are hot on the campaign trail, kissing babies, shaking the hands of union members and convincing the people of Des Moines to cast a vote in their direction.

So it's no surprise that when the Working Families Party and the Lambda Independent Democrats (LID) hosted a debate in Park Slope last Sunday afternoon, the nine presidential wannabes were nowhere to be found.

Instead, local elected officials, former elected officials and concerned residents lined up to represent several of the presidential candidates in what organizers called a "Rally to Beat Bush" at Camp Friendship on Eighth Street at Sixth Avenue.

In the debate by proxy, the candidates differed at times on how to proceed in Iraq and on national healthcare, but the one unifying rallying call was a need to defeat the current administration.

"No goal is more important than getting rid of George Bush," said LID President Dan Tietz. The 26-year-old, Park Slope-based Democratic club is the largest lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender political club in New York City.

After introducing the debate, Tietz slipped into his role as Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry.

More than 60 people, several of whom said they were already leaning towards a particular candidate, packed the hall to learn more about the presidential hopefuls and stood at different degrees of alertness throughout the two-hour event.

Standing in for retired Gen. Wesley Clark, former Bay Ridge city Councilman Sal Albanese sported a turtle-neck sweater and touted Clark's "strong domestic policies" and progressive tax plan that would raise taxes on those earning more than \$1 million, raise the minimum wage to \$7 an hour, and provide universal pre-kindergarten programs.

Rep. Major Owens, whose district includes Park Slope, suited up as former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean and railed against the war in Iraq and corporate greed.

But for Park Slope Councilman Bill DeBlasio, the New York co-chair of North Carolina, Sen. John Edwards' campaign, the real question was how to beat George Bush.

"Philosophically there are many similarities between the candidates," said DeBlasio, standing in for Edwards, who stressed the importance of nominating a candidate who can appeal to a cross section of the country.

Touting Edwards as a populist, DeBlasio billed the candidate as a hardworking son of a postal and mill worker and the first in his family to attend college who could transcend class lines.

Representatives for former House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt, of Missouri, and Ohio Rep. Dennis Kucinich also stood to make their impassioned pleas.

Michael Esterowitz, a Park Slope resident and public school teacher in Bensonhurst, had been a Dean supporter but said the debate gave him something to think about.

"I found Edwards and Clark a little more interesting," Esterowitz said, referring to the performances by DeBlasio and Albanese.

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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

January 17, 2004

# Out of Africa

The art of Kenya is on view at five Brooklyn locations

By Lisa J. Curtis  
GO Brooklyn Editor

Imagine a trio of stationary zebras set against a brilliant blue sky or the bold, red fabric swathing a trio of tall Maasai or the bust of a black woman, carved from wood, and sporting glinting, silver nails bent to form the curls of her hair.

These rarely seen artworks from Kenya can be experienced in the flesh all over Brooklyn as part of the "Kenya Art" show, organized by Five Myles gallery director Hanne Tierney.

After two years of labor, the ambitious "Kenya Art" show — an exhibition of 96 artworks in a variety of media — is on display at the Brooklyn Public Library's Central Library at Grand Army Plaza, the Five Myles Gallery in Crown Heights, the Kentler International Drawing Space in Red Hook, Long Island University's Salena Gallery in Downtown Brooklyn and the Welancora Gallery in Bedford-Stuyvesant through Feb. 29.

About 50 artists are represented in this show which brings to the United States the art of eastern Africa's Kenya as opposed to the more frequently exhibited works of western Africa. (All of the artists live and work in Kenya with the exception of Meek Gichugu, who now lives in France.)

"Kenya Art" was curated by Judy Ogana, director of the Kiunga Trust Museum Art Studio and Carol Lees, program coordinator at Rahimtulla Museum of Modern Art, both based in Nairobi.

On Jan. 14, Ogana and Lees joined Tierney at the Central Library for a panel discussion about this momentous borough-wide exhibition.

The show was the brainchild of Tierney, who exhibits works from Africa every two years at her gallery. On a visit to Nairobi she viewed contemporary artwork in the national museum. "To use a downtown word, it blew me away," she said.

Tierney speculated that the dearth of Kenyan art in the international scene might just be because their modern art scene is so new, although they've been making art since



the beginning of time.

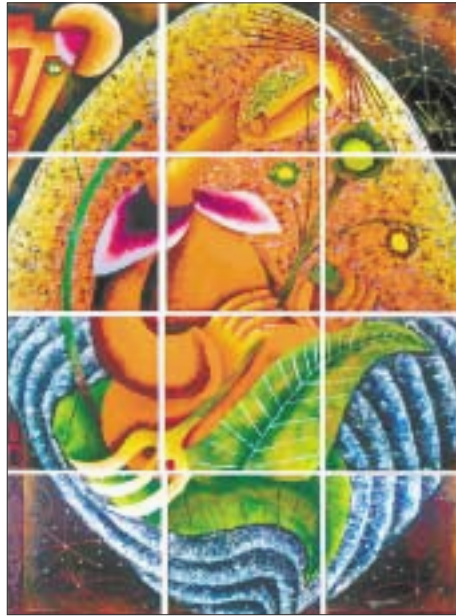
"The first art venues appeared only after Kenya's independence, in 1963," said Tierney.

"It's an art scene not yet dominated by the pressure of sales or financial commitments, but rather by the exhilaration that accompanies the beginning of a journey," she said. The curators explained that their mission was to select a broad swath of artwork from contemporary Kenyan artists — and this is just the tip of that country's iceberg.

"The works we selected are a cross-section of what could be found," said Ogana. "It's not just the tip of that country's iceberg."

"What's interesting about art in Kenya is that even the nature of Kenyan art is different from the Western concept of painting, sculpture or song."

"What's interesting about art in Kenya is that in the Western world what is considered



**Rare glimpses:** Pieces included in the "Kenya Art" exhibit are Beatrice Wangeci's acrylic on paper, "Maasai Women" (at left), and Simon Muthi's "Homeward Coming" a 12-piece painting (above). Both are on display at the Brooklyn Public Library's Central Library.

fine art is really an interesting fusion in Kenya," said Mwaura. "There's a word for dance and song. It's the same word, because there could be no song without dance."

Mwaura said he was inspired by a political cartoonist's work, so he made a theater piece based on it.

Tierney pointed out the differences between West and East African art. "My impression of West African artists is that they are Eurocentric, much closer to the art of the West than Kenyan artists," she said. "One of the strengths here [in this exhibit] is that it is not an imitated voice. To me it's almost like jazz. People speak because it's in them, not someone else's voice."

At the Central Library there are several large, vibrant paintings tucked away in the Lobby Gallery alcove by the elevators. Art lovers will be rewarded for sleuthing them out by the sight of Simon Muthi's "Homeward Coming," a dense, complicated composition painted and scratched onto the 12 canvases, incorporating a woman curled inside an oval with flowers. A man's face peeks in from the left of the frame, watching the woman, or perhaps, the viewer.

Also in the Lobby Gallery is Elijah Ooko's "A Group of Zebras," which takes the unconventional, and humorous, approach of painting a trio of the striped animals from behind.

In the library's main lobby are numerous works on paper and on the second floor balcony are wood sculptures including "Henry's Bust," by David Mwaniki, and a display of Frank Odo's comic strips, "Akothan Lives."

Opening Jan. 17, at the Kentler International Drawing Space will be an exhibition of works on paper including colored pencil drawings by Joel Oswago, born in 1944, of the disappearing way of life of his tribe, the Luo. Among the works is "The Bird Catchers," an 11-inch by 14-inch, stylized drawing of two villagers and a child hanging vibrant

baskets on a towering, bending stick.

Now on display at the Welancora Gallery are paintings from two artist communities in rural Kenya: Banana Hill and the Ngacha Group. (Tierney said this African-American gallery, run by Nicole Jones, will soon be the first auction house dedicated to selling work by artists of African descent.)

Two Kenyan artists, whose work is on display now at the Salena Gallery at Long Island University, James Mbutia and Petersen Kamathi, will be in residence at the Five Myles gallery working on an installation of a chicken coop, which will be unveiled at the Salena for its reception on Feb. 11 from 5 pm to 7 pm.

Several New York artists will be invited to create chickens for the coop, said Tierney.

The artists' residency and a portion of the exhibit costs are being underwritten by the Ford Foundation, said Tierney.

"The Ford Foundation thought it would be very nice and important to have two artists come over and profit from the experience — which is terrific," she said. "The foundation and Rob Burnett have taken this really seriously and are thinking about what's good for Kenya." In addition to raising the visibility of the artists, all of the works are for sale.

"This work isn't shown, it doesn't get out much, so it's great to have it in this New York art scene," said Tierney.

The last piece of the borough-wide show is an exhibit of works by "second-generation" artists, including Kamathi, Ooko and Irene Wanjiru, among others, at the Salena Gallery.

## ART

### DUMBO view

While noshing at the Brooklyn Heights Italian restaurant Noodle Pudding, don't miss painter Charles Murphy's ongoing series of cityscapes, "New York/Brooklyn Impressions," on display through Feb. 6.

The oil-on-linen works include "Winter Light," a wintry view of DUMBO's Washington Street and the Manhattan Bridge. There are also three limited-edition giclees, high-quality inkjet prints executed by a master art printer.

The 70-year-old Murphy is a Manhattan resident but maintains a second studio in Brooklyn Heights, because he spends so much time painting in the neighborhood.

"New York/Brooklyn Impressions" is on view during restaurant hours of operation: Tuesday through Thursday, 5:30-10:30 pm; Friday and Saturday, 5:30-11 pm; and Sunday, 5-10 pm. Closed Mondays.

Noodle Pudding is located at 38 Henry St., between Cranberry and Middagh streets. For more information, log on to [www.charlesmurphy.com](http://www.charlesmurphy.com) or call (718) 625-3737. — Lisa J. Curtis

## MUSIC

### Lofty choirs

Two Brooklyn-based choirs will be showcased in the Brooklyn Academy of Music's "Praise Music" program on Jan. 17. The New Life Tabernacle Mass Choir, from Crown Heights, and Total Praise, of the Emmanuel Baptist Church in Clinton Hill, will perform gospel music on the enormous BAM opera house stage (30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene) on Saturday at 7:30 pm. Grammy-nominated contemporary gospel soloist Beverly Crawford (pictured) will also be featured. Tickets are \$20 and \$25. For more information, call (718) 636-4100 or visit the Web site at [www.bam.org](http://www.bam.org). — Lisa J. Curtis

## ART



### Bklyn scenes

The limited-edition watercolor prints of Brooklyn Heights resident and award-winning scenic designer Oliver Smith (1918-1994) are on display now through Jan. 31 at the Clinton Hill Simply Art Gallery (583 Myrtle Ave. at Clason Avenue).

Broadway Art Enterprises is the exclusive publisher of Smith's distinctly American paintings, drawings and stage renderings and they have chosen Clinton Hill Simply Art to preview the newly released, giclees of watercolors Smith painted of Brooklyn.

Smith's "Brooklyn Bridge #1" watercolor (circa 1940s) is pictured.

The artist, a Wisconsin native, moved to Middagh Street in 1939, later bought a home on Willow Street (made famous in Truman Capote's "The House on the Heights") and lived here until his death. (In addition to set design, Smith was co-director of the American Ballet Theatre from 1945 to 1980).

Gallery owner Lurita LB Brown says, "While I am familiar with such musicals as 'Hello Dolly!' 'My Fair Lady,' 'West Side Story,' 'Brigadoon,' 'Camelot,' 'On the Town,' 'Oklahoma,' 'Guys and Dolls,' I did not know the eight-time Tony Award-winner, nor was I familiar with Oliver Smith as a painter — but I know Brooklyn."

"Once I viewed Mr. Smith's Brooklyn watercolors from abstract to figurative, I felt his passion — Brooklyn."

For more information about gallery hours, call (718) 857-0074. — Lisa J. Curtis

## Where to GO

"Kenya Art" will be on display through Feb. 29 at these locations: Brooklyn Public Library's Central Library at Grand Army Plaza (718) 230-2100, [www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org](http://www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org); Kentler International Drawing Space, 353 Van Brunt St. at Wolcott Street in Red Hook (718) 875-2093; Long Island University's Salena Gallery at the corner of Flatbush Avenue Extension and DeKalb Avenue in Downtown Brooklyn, (718) 488-1198; Welancora Gallery 410 Jefferson Ave. at Throop Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 919-0344; and Five Myles, 558 St. Johns Place between Clason and Franklin avenues in Crown

Heights (718) 783-4438.

The entire exhibition is free and open to the public.

**Related events, which are also free, include:**

"Golden Liberations" presents spoken-word performances at Five Myles on Feb. 15 from 4 pm to 6 pm.

Kenyan storytelling for families, with Bantu Mwaura, on Feb. 1 at 2 pm, and Swahili poetry readings in Swahili and English on Feb. 8 at 2 pm at the Central Library.

Opening reception for the Kentler International Drawing Space exhibit on Jan. 17 from 2 pm to 5 pm.

Reception for the Salena Gallery's exhibit of Kenya's second-generation artists, on Feb. 11, from 5 pm to 7 pm.

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# BROOKLYN

## Neighborhood Dining Guide

### This week: PARK SLOPE'S SEVENTH AVENUE

#### Cafe Steinhof

422 Seventh Ave. at 14th Street, (718) 369-7776 (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$9-\$12 +  
Cafe Steinhof, named after a famous park in Vienna, has a European feel — a German "tier garden" with a hint of British pub. True to its cultural roots and the taste of owner and chef Paul Goebert, the restaurant serves spaetzle (small dumplings), schitzel (meat that's been dipped in egg, breaded and fried) and sauerbraten (beef that's been marinated for several days and then roasted). Cafe Steinhof offers five beers on tap and 10 bottled beers from Austria, Germany, the Czech Republic and Britain, as well as wine and a full bar. Cafe Steinhof is open daily for lunch and dinner except Mondays when they're closed for lunch. On Monday nights, instead of the usual menu, \$5 bowls of goulash and \$7 sautéed trout is offered.

#### Cocina Cuzco

222 Seventh Ave. at Third Street, (718) 768-3838 (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$5.95-\$17.50. This colorful eatery has a colorful menu, as well, featuring South American cuisine from Argentina, Peru, Costa Rica and Colombia. The strikingly picturesque interior is reinforced with a gorgeous salt-water fish tank. Order the papa rellena for starters: potato stuffed with beef, mixed veggies and raisins, served with salsa criolla. If you're a ceviche fan, go for the tuna, marinated in lime, ginger, garlic and coconut juice.

Some options for the main course: camarones al ajillo, shrimp in garlic sauce served with yellow rice; salmon fillets, a salmon steak broiled in olive oil with broccoli, spinach and asparagus; or a pork tenderloin, or bandeja paisa, Colombian pan-fried steak platter with fried eggs, bacon, rice, beans and plantains. Sides: corn, rice and plantains. Sides: corn, rice and plantains. Sides: corn, rice and plantains.

#### Corn Bread Cafe

434 Seventh Ave. at 15th Street, (718) 768-3838 (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$7.95-\$15.95 +  
Owner and chef Bettina Henri "Corn Bread Cafe keeps mouths watering with her "down-home barbecue" and "taste of New Orleans." Entrees like the Maryland crab cakes with remoulade, crawfish etouffée, and penne with spinach, roasted peppers and mushrooms show that this is no ordinary soul food restaurant. Corn Bread Cafe's Po' Boy sandwiches — chicken or fish served on a baguette topped with sweet pickles, coleslaw and tomatoes — are humble but delectable. Desserts like the double chocolate layer cake and warm peach cobbler ensure a sweet ending. Enjoy their outdoor patio when warmer weather returns. Open daily. Weekend brunch, too.

**Fuji San**  
161 Seventh Ave. at First Street, (718) 768-3976 (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$8.15-\$16.50.  
A relaxing lunch or dinner, with large windows opening onto the street, is in store for you at Fuji San. An affable pair of sushi chefs greet you as you step in, forcing you to choose between watching them or looking at your dining companion. Hikari, marinated seaweed with bean curd and carrots is a fresh opener, or a la carte sushi selections might be what you're looking for. Tempura? Sure! The Fujian tempura is shrimp, fish and vegetables. Or try the founder's butternut squash, lightly battered, broiled and served with the chef's special sauce. Tinkatu (piled flat of pork cutlets in breaded batter with its own sauce), tofu, teriyaki, vegetarian sushi and maki are available.

Wrap it all up with deliciously flavored ginger, red bean or green tea ice cream or have the ice cream tempura style, encased in a crunchy fried coating. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

#### Inaka Sushi House

236 Seventh Ave. at Fourth Street, (718) 499-7856 (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$9.65-\$16.50.  
The making of those beautiful little works of art called sushi is so fascinating many people will prefer sitting at the bar where owner Joanne Wu's cadre of superb sushi chefs work their magic. Others may prefer the comfort of Inaka's dining room. Either way, a good idea for beginners is to order the nine-piece sushi deluxe box, which contains yellow tail, salmon, mackerel, ten fish roll, crab meat, white fish in several varieties, shrimp and tuna roll. Sushi can also be ordered a la carte and in more modest combinations. Teriyaki fans will find Inaka's dishes expertly seasoned and melt-in-your-mouth tender.

★ = Full review available at

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Abbreviation Key: AmEx= American Express, Disc= Discover Card, MC= MasterCard, Visa= Visa Card

#### Joe's Pizza

137 Seventh Ave. at Carroll Street, (718) 398-9198 and (718) 398-9201 (Cash only) Pizzas: \$11 and up.

Fans of the famous Joe's Pizza on Bleecker Street don't have to trek to Manhattan for a slice anymore. Joe's opened its Park Slope outpost in July 2003, and it offers up the same crispy, thin-crust pizzas. Enjoy a traditional pie, or give the white pizza (topped with ricotta and mozzarella without tomato sauce) or Sicilian square a try. And there's no need to stand at those circular tables to eat — Joe's Pizza in Brooklyn has plenty of seating. Open daily.

#### Master Wok

361 Seventh Ave. at 10th Street, (718) 499-2288 or 2510 (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$6.95-\$12.95.

Chief-owner Mei Fung Chang has presided over kitchens for more than 20 years. Trained in Taiwan, he cooks mostly in the spicy Sichuan and Hunan styles. General Tso's chicken, deep-fried chicken with a zesty sauce, is one of his specialties. But he's also at home with milder dishes like Shanghai green bok choy, a sautéed vegetable dish. The popular lunch menu includes rice, soup and a main dish.

#### Oshima

71 Seventh Ave. at Lincoln Place, (718) 783-1889 (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$10-\$28 aashim for two.

Oshima has done away with its previous focus on vegetarian dishes and now has a menu dedicated to traditional Japanese cuisine. You'll enjoy the benefits of owner Feng Huang's 10 years of experience in the restaurant world in the full lineup of rolls (including the Poppye \$7.95), with spinach, asparagus, avocado and wasabi, sushi, teriyaki, tempura and noodle dishes. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

#### Paradou

426a Seventh Ave. at 14th Street, (718) 499-5557 (Visa, MC) Entrees: \$11-\$17 +  
Chef Robert Ushaw gets rave reviews for his dessert crepes, charcuterie plates and his roasted tomato, basil and goat cheese terrine. He's also very proud of his traditional regional French dishes, such as the duck confit cassoulet and coq au vin.

Paradou opened at the end of June in the old Max and Moritz location, seats 40 to 50 people, serves wine and beer, and has a large outdoor garden (in season). Dinner is served Tuesday through Sunday beginning at 4 p.m. Brunch and lunch is served Saturdays and Sundays, noon-4 p.m. There is a three-course prix fixe dinner menu Sundays through Thursdays for \$25. Upcoming events include a wild game three-course dinner with wine (for \$45) on Jan. 27 and a special menu for Valentine's Day.

#### Salsa Rossa

183 Seventh Ave. at First Street, (718) 369-3447 (MC, Visa) Entrees: \$9-\$16.

This new Italian restaurant in Park Slope, owned by Marcello Assante, offers Chef Daniel Flores' polli di salsa rossa, a spinach-and-cheese-stuffed chicken breast, which is breaded and pan-fried, or the gnocchetti (somewhat, in a tomato sauce with fresh mozzarella, or the ritagliata, thin sliced flat mignon with rosemary, cherry tomatoes and an arugula puree. Stay for tiramisu or zabaglione, an egg custard with strawberries. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

#### Sotto Voce

225 Seventh Ave. at Fourth Street, (718) 369-9322 (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$6.95-\$18.95.

A favorite lunch spot of indie filmmakers and actors in Park Slope, this six-year-old restaurant is open daily for lunch and dinner, serving top-notch contemporary Italian cuisine from chef-owner Giovanni Taffet. Sotto Voce serves lunch, dinner and brunch on Saturdays and Sundays. Seating available both indoors in the light, airy dining room and outside (weather permitting) in its sidewalk cafe where diners happily gawk at the bustling Seventh Avenue shoppers. The entrees include a wide range of pasta, fish, meat and chicken dishes. Fullfill with four-cheese cream sauce is legit. End your meal with a housemade Sotto Voce dessert. (The tiramisu is superb!)



## Old World

### Grand Prospect Hall's historic Oak Room Supper Club is open for biz again

By Lisa Selin Davis  
for The Brooklyn Papers

Drive down Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, near Prospect Avenue, and you can't help but notice the tremendous four-story Victorian structure looming over the Prospect Expressway. Standing out against the treble row houses that surround it, the 114-year-old Grand Prospect Hall is steeped in both history and mystery because most of us don't know what goes on inside the hall since 1984.

But that's all changing.

As of Jan. 6, the Oak Room Restaurant and Supper Club at the Grand Prospect Hall became, according to Hal-

kias, the finest dinner and dancing spot, as well as the only extant Oak Room (besides the one at the Algonquin Hotel) in New York City.

Halkias, who claims to have been 35 for dinner with a wink, bought the building in 1984. Before that, he says, he was "running around happily, sleeping as much as I wanted before I enslaved myself to Grand Prospect Hall," which has taken 20 years to renovate. When he bought it, most of the walls were painted black and there were holes in the roof and barrels in some of the rooms. All the molding had been

stripped off the walls, there were drop ceilings, and the chandeliers were gone, recalls Halkias.

But the Grand Prospect Hall has been restored to its former grandeur.

"It's a one of a kind," says Halkias. The hall was built in 1892 by Brooklyn civic and social leaders, and then rebuilt in 1903 after a fire. Many celebrity patrons have visited, including gangster Al Capone, dancer Fred Astaire and opera singer Enrico Caruso, and movies such as "The Cotton Club," "Prizzi's Honor" and "The Royal Tenenbaums" have filmed scenes there.

The building, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is certainly cinematic. There are 12 rooms, from the Grand Ballroom, which seats 2,000,

to the speaker's room, where Capone is rumored to have received his famous scar. There's even a 14-lane bowling alley in the basement. Ro-coco decor abounds, with 23.75-carat gold leaf on the ornate stairway rail-

ings, crown molding painted in shades of sherbet — tangerine, pistachio and strawberry — on the ceiling.

The Grand Ballroom was once a German opera house, covered in dark paint. Now the 80-foot by 130-foot room, with 45-foot ceilings, a balcony and a vaudeville stage is completely restored. The 40-foot by 130-foot skylight room next door retains its original tin ceilings and walls, and opens onto a brand-new atrium with granite floors



(Clockwise from top left) Dancers in the supper club; Chef Michel Aytelkin fires up the bananas at the opening of Grand Prospect Hall's Oak Room Supper Club on Jan. 6; (left to right) Grand Prospect Hall owners Mike and Alice Halkias with Jamie Snow Markowitz and Borough President Marty Markowitz at the opening party.

that sits above the gardens.

There's a dining area called "the Chopin room" in homage to the building's earlier life as a Polish social club. A French bridge-style Otis elevator — "The first elevator in Brooklyn," boasts Halkias' right-hand man, Annie Waffis — brings visitors to the third-floor Rainbow Room, once a Masonic temple, with magnificent views of Downtown Brooklyn, Manhattan and the Statue of Liberty.

Even if the Grand Prospect Hall is

ultra-Brooklyn, it retains the slightest air of Miami inside.

Asked about the bright colors, Waffis replies, "We're in the happy business." (Until now, Halkias' primary business has been weddings for the countless ethnic groups in Brooklyn.) The Oak Room certainly adds to that happiness. Split into two parts, the Oak Room Bar and Grill, in what was once the women's dining room, and the Oak Room Supper Club, in the former

See OAK on page GO 5

## Kids eat free

In November, Magnolia restaurant's owners, Roger Esposito and Robert Trzcinski, decided to honor the loyal Park Slope families who have been frequenting their establishment for the last four years, by instituting a special night for children.

On Sundays, from 4 pm to 8 pm, children under 12 can eat all their favorites foods — mozzarella sticks with marinara sauce, individual pizzas, penne pasta with their favorite sauce, and fried chicken strips with Dijon honey mustard sauce — for free.

While parents are congratulating themselves on their good fortune, they can down roast beef and arugula salad with Gorgonzola,

la, crab cakes, grilled salmon, pasta and steak in the softly lit, dark-wood bistro interior.

There's a full bar, too, with the answer to junior's twelfth rendition of "I'm a little tea pot": a very dry martini with two olives.

Magnolia Restaurant & Bar (486 Sixth Ave. at 12th Street in Park Slope) accepts Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover. Entrees: \$12-\$24. Children under 12 eat free Sunday evenings from 4 pm to 8 pm. The restaurant is open for dinner seven days a week. Brunch is served on Sunday from 11 am to 4 pm. For information call (718) 369-4814.

— Tina Barry

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# 'Dream' team

**BAM celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with a star-studded tribute**

By Paulanne Simmons  
for The Brooklyn Papers

Brooklyn's annual tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at the Brooklyn Academy of Music's Howard Gilman Opera House is not only the largest King celebration in New York City, but also one that consistently features some of the top performing artists and men and women of influence in the black community.

This year's 18th annual "Come Share the Dream" celebration on Jan. 19 will feature a keynote address by Wynton Marsalis, jazz musician and artistic director of Jazz at Lincoln Center, as well as performances by the Boys Choir of Harlem, The Persuasions and, from the landmark (and former Underground Railroad stop) Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church in Fort Greene, the Lafayette Inspirational Ensemble.

The event is free and open to the public on a first-come, first-served basis. The Boys Choir of Harlem will perform a number of songs, including "Precious Lord" and "We Are Heroes," by Linda Twine and Lee Cooper.

"We Are Heroes" was written some time ago, but it speaks to Dr. King, choir founder and leader Dr. Walter J. Turnbull told GO Brooklyn.

Although the choir has per-



**King for a day:** The 2004 documentary, "Citizen King," directed by Orlando Bagwell and Noland Walker, will be screened on Jan. 19 as part of the Brooklyn Academy of Music's tribute to Martin Luther King Jr. Jazz musician Wynton Marsalis, right, will give the keynote address.

formed in Brooklyn many times, as well as nationally and internationally, the young singers have not been heard at BAM recently.

## EVENT

The Brooklyn Academy of Music "Come Share the Dream" tribute to Martin Luther King Jr. will take place on Jan. 19 at 10:30 a.m. at the BAM Howard Gilman Opera House. Following the event will be screenings of the documentary "Citizen King" in the BAM Rose Cinemas. BAM Howard Gilman Opera House and BAM Rose Cinemas are located at 50 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene. The Opera House tribute and film screenings are free and open to the public with seating available on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, call 718 636-4100.

"We are always proud to be part of any Martin Luther King celebration. His goals were similar to those of the Boys Choir," said Turnbull. The Choir Academy of

Harlem was founded 32 years ago at Ephesus Church "to give kids something interesting and exciting to do," Turnbull said. Boys and girls are recruited from all five boroughs and auditions are held in every elementary school in Harlem. The Boys Choir is drawn from the academy and "that small group became international."

In addition to its regular schedule of performances, the Boys Choir of Harlem has performed at the United Nations 30th Anniversary Concert, the Statue of Liberty Centennial celebration, Pope John Paul II's Sunrise Mass in Central Park, President Bill Clinton's 1993 inauguration and the ceremony for the African Burial Ground Re-interment Project.

As for the Persuasions, they are one of the few groups founded in Brooklyn that went on to achieve international



Sam Magee

fame but has remained in the borough. Group members live in Flatbush, Fort Greene and Park Slope.

According to Jimmy Hayes, one of the founding members of The Persuasions, one part of the group's success is due to timing. The Persuasions began singing in 1962, when doo-wop's heyday was over and the music world was ready for something new. That

something turned out to be a cappella.

The other part was the sound.

"It was like Aretha Franklin," said Hayes. "Coming from the South, we grew up in the church. The sound had gospel overtones."

And, of course, there was also a bit of chance in the mix. For instance, the group didn't really want to sing a cappella. In fact, it came about mostly as a necessity.

"We wanted to have a band, but it just didn't happen," said Hayes. "We had a guitar player. Either he didn't show up or he had to pawn the guitar. We played in subway stations and people said, 'You don't need a band.'"

In 1974, the success of their single "I Really Got It Bad for You" proved those people were right.

Jayotis Washington and Joe Russell, along with Jimmy Hayes, are the original members who still sing with the group. (Ray Sanders replaced Herbert Rhoads, who died in 1988, and Jerry Lawson recently left the group to go solo.)

Hayes, who hears his own sound in groups like Sweet Honey in the Rock, The Nylons, Boys II Men and Rockapella, believes young people today have a new and better appreciation for a cappella.

At BAM, The Persuasions will sing a medley of gospel songs including the Beatles' "Let It Be," "Wings" "Harmony for Two" and "When the Saints Go Marching In" (their version," says Hayes), as well as one song with the Boys Choir.

The Opera House tribute begins at 10:30 a.m. Following the tribute in the BAM Howard Gilman Opera House, BAM Rose Cinemas will present special screenings of the brand new documentary, "Citizen King" directed by Orlando Bagwell and Noland Walker.

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# 'Brown' is true blue

Gallery Players' production stays true to vision of Brooklyn Heights composer, Clark Gesner

By Paulanne Simmons  
for The Brooklyn Papers

That perpetual loser, that hero of the underdog, that idol of the timid — yes, Charlie Brown — is back in Brooklyn.

Charlie, who first appeared in Charles Schulz's "Peanuts" comic strip, already had fans nationwide when Clark Gesner wrote the book, music and lyrics for "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," 8 pm, See Sat., Jan. 17.

**ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE** presents "Hiroshima Maiden," 8 pm, See Sat., Jan. 17. **BROOKLYN ARTS EXCHANGE** presents a shared evening performance and discussion, 8 pm, See Sat., Jan. 24.

**PERFORMANCES**

**FORUM:** Open Ground hosts a talk on gentrification and rezoning, 6 pm to 8 pm, 252 Grand St. (347) 613-1849. Free.

**RHYTHM AND BASS:** Brooklyn Academy of Music presents "Winter Sol," a program featuring soul legend Sam Moore and singer/guitarist Real MacLean, 8 pm, 252 Grand St. (347) 613-1849. Free.

**BARGE MUSIC:** presents a chamber music concert of Bach, Mozart, Schiffr and Faure, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Fulton Ferry Landing, (718) 624-2063.

**BOCB:** Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts presents reggae singer Freddie McGregor, 8:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., Whitman Hall, Brooklyn College, one block from the intersection of Flatbush and Nostrand avenues, (718) 951-4400.

**LOCAL PRODUCE:** Spoke the Hub 3rd anniversary event featuring a variety of dancers, musicians, actors and performing artists, 5:15 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., 295 Deans St. (718) 628-3234.

**GALLERY PLAYERS:** presents "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," 8:15 p.m. to 11:15 p.m., 486 Sixth Ave. (718) 955-0547.

**HEIGHTS PLAYERS:** presents "A View from the Bridge," 8:15 p.m. to 11:15 p.m., 252 Grand St. (347) 613-1849. Free.

**BROOKLYN ARTS EXCHANGE:** presents "Hiroshima Maiden," 8 pm, See Sat., Jan. 17.

**ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE:** presents "Hiroshima Maiden," 8 pm, See Sat., Jan. 17.

**CONCERT:** Ark Song Singers perform vocal music featuring Faure, Handel and Brahms, in addition to folk songs, madrigals and more, 8 pm, 510 St. Augustine's Church, Sixth Avenue and Sterling Place, (718) 629-0920.

**FLAMENCO MUSIC:** Mezon Flamenco presents dance and music featuring Lina and Pedro Contró, 8:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., 135 Atlantic Ave. (718) 625-7177.

**JAZZ:** Magnolia Restaurant presents NY Jazz Orchestra, 10 pm to 1 am, 486 Sixth Ave. (718) 361-3614.

**TWO BOOTS:** Blues with Gene Ambar, 8 pm, 510 St. Augustine's Church, Sixth Avenue and Sterling Place, (718) 629-0920.

**CHILDREN**

**BROOKLYN HISTORICAL SOCIETY:** Body and Soul workshop, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 135 Atlantic Ave. (718) 625-7177.

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Photo by Susan Rosenthal

Making cents: Christopher Gleason as Charlie Brown, Jennifer Smiles as Lucy, and Nicholas Sattinger as Snoopy (below right) in the Gallery Players production of "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown."

revue powered by a series of vignettes. Thus we see Charlie and his friends trudging through a blizzard, which can be whistling, trying your shoes or "walking hand in hand."

The overwhelming charm of Gesner's work is not only that adults are playing children, but that children have the wisdom adults should — but often don't — have.

Gesner, the son, grandson and nephew of Unitarian ministers, knew more than a little about the human heart. And it's all out there on stage at the Gallery Players — in words, dance and song.

Linus' philosophical resignation and intellectualism, Snoopy's ingratiating sycophancy.

Gleason stole this reviewer's heart with his sweet smile. He wades wonderers with his blanket, Osgive made his toy piano feel grand.

And Smiles — who, you couldn't get at her chatup!

Timothy J. Ambrin's whimsical set, consisting, for the most part, of movable pieces and flats, executed with

cartoon-like clarity and painted in bright, enthusiastic colors — Snoopy's doghouse, a tree in a park, Lucy's home — are both reminiscent of the comic strip and highly theatrical on their own. Ambrin has also designed under the theory that less means more, leaving plenty of room for Brian Mulry's simple, but sensational choreography.

"You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" is really a musical

revelation. Thus we see Charlie and his friends trudging through a blizzard, which can be whistling, trying your shoes or "walking hand in hand."

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## SAT, JAN 17

### OUTDOORS AND TOURS

**ICE SKATING:** at the Prospect Park Wollman Rink. Sessions from 10 am to 1 p.m., 2 p.m. to 6 pm and 7 pm to 10 pm. \$2 admission. \$3 seniors and students. \$5 skate rental fee. Enter park at Audubon and Ocean avenues. (718) 287-4431.

### PERFORMANCE

**CONCERT:** Brooklyn Academy of Music presents "Praise Music," a gospel program featuring soloist Beverly Crawford and gospel choir Total Praise and New Life Tabernacle Choir. \$25, 2:30 p.m. Howard Gilman Opera House, 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

**BARGE MUSIC:** presents a chamber music concert of works by Donizetti, Beethoven and Brahms. \$35, 7:30 p.m. Fulton Ferry Landing, (718) 624-2063.

**DANCE:** Williamsburg Art Nexus presents "50 Dances in 'The Boy's Chorus' a fantasy on the theme of Trinity, 5:15 p.m., 205 N. Seventh St. (718) 599-7977.

**GALLERY PLAYERS:** presents "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," 8:15 p.m. to 11:15 p.m., 486 Sixth Ave. (718) 955-0547.

**HEIGHTS PLAYERS:** "A View from the Bridge," 8:15 p.m. to 11:15 p.m., 252 Grand St. (347) 613-1849. Free.

**SHAKESPEARE:** Waterford Theater Company presents "Twelfth Night or What You Will," 8:15 p.m. to 11:15 p.m., 475 Third Ave. (212) 502-0994.

**PARLOR JAZZ:** Jazz vocalist Kate Bull and her trio performs. \$15 donation. Sets at 9 p.m. and 10:45 p.m., 119 Vandewater Ave. (718) 655-1881.

**JAZZ:** Magnolia Restaurant presents music with Park A. No cover. 10 pm to 1 am, 486 Sixth Ave. (718) 361-3614.

**TWO BOOTS:** Jazz with Hot Butter All Stars. No cover. 10 pm, 514 Second St. (718) 499-3253.

### CHILDREN

**BROOKLYN HISTORICAL SOCIETY:** "Extral Extra!" living history drama workshop for children 8 to 16 and their families. Workshop from 11 am to 1 pm; performance at 3 pm. \$5 children, \$3 with membership. \$2 adults. 128 Piermont St. (718) 222-4111.

**BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM:** "Amazing Ambers!" Learn how living things can get stuck in rocks. Appropriate for ages 7 and up. \$4 fee for members. 2 pm to 4 pm, 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 735-4402.

**BOCB:** Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts presents "Calliope's Big Party." Audience participation and family fun. \$20, 2 p.m. Whitman Theater, Brooklyn College, one block from the intersection of Flatbush and Nostrand avenues. (718) 951-4500.

### OTHER

**BREEDING CLASS:** Brooklyn Aquarium offers a talk and a hands-on "Breeding and Hints." Learn everything you need to know to bring fish into breed mode, plus caring and raising the fish. \$44.95 includes up to two guests free, ages 8 to 15 years. 2 pm to 4 pm, Audubon Center, Prospect Park. (718) 377-7749.

**AUDITIONS:** Impact Theater hosts a tryout for people of all types and ages, 10 am to noon. Call for appointment. 290 Underhill Ave. (718) 253-1256.

**FITNESS CLINIC:** Model's Sporting Goods Store presents a cardio personal trainer demonstrating exercises and fitness techniques. Adults and children welcome. Free. Noon to 2 pm, 89-59 Bay Parkway, (212) 822-1000, ext. 379. Free.

**RECEPTION:** Kenzie Interiors Drawing Space hosts a reception for "Kenya Art," 3 pm to 5 pm, 882 Varot St. (718) 875-2093. Free.

**RECEPTION:** DUMBO Art Center hosts an opening reception for its exhibit "Home," 6 pm to 9 pm, 30 Washington St. (718) 694-0331. Free.

### SUN, JAN 18

### PERFORMANCE

**BARGE MUSIC:** presents a chamber music concert of works by Donizetti, Beethoven and Brahms. \$35, 7:30 p.m. Fulton Ferry Landing, (718) 624-2063.

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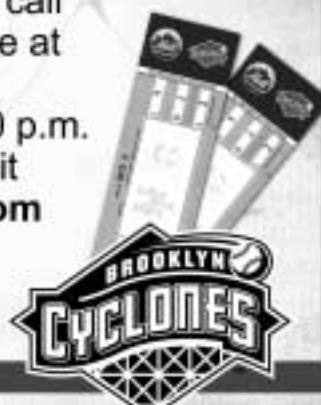
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Cleaning prices range from \$1.50 to \$2 per square foot. Visit their Web site at [www.bettercarpetwarehouse.com](http://www.bettercarpetwarehouse.com) for a list of various rugs carried and special sales and discounts.

**Better Carpet Warehouse**, 443 Atlantic Ave. between Nevins and Bond streets; (718) 855-2794.

With darkness falling so early, good lighting is essential for both function and beauty. **Lamp Warehouse**'s six huge showrooms display every type of

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Get fun new stuff at **Bob & Judi's Collectibles**, voted best antique shop in New York by

Citysearch.com.

Bob is always on the lookout for old toys, old cameras, interesting gadgets like wacky cigar cutters, and anything Coney Island, while Judi goes for the prettier things: pottery, salt and pepper shakers, kitchen items, and Vargas girl pin-ups.

The store also carries furniture from Victorian through the '60s. Fun vintage finds adorn the walls: black and white Brooklyn pictures, old Wonder Bread signs and mirrors. Bob and Judi also buy, from one piece to entire estates.

**Bob & Judi's** is located at 217 Fifth Avenue (at Union Street) in Park Slope; (718) 638-5770.

Run those chilly toes over to the **\$10 Carpet Store**, which is chock full of wall-to-wall carpet, plus durable laminate flooring (just sweep and damp mop, no polishing needed), and vinyl tiles. Huge selection of ceramic floor (and some wall) tiles, too.

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The **\$10 Carpet Store**, 3461 Fort Hamilton Pkwy between 36th and Chester streets; (718) 854-0500.

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# BROOKLYN CLASSIFIEDS

**The Deadline for Saturday's Paper is Wednesday,**

**(718) 834-9350**

**Fax: (718) 834-1713**

**Email: ads@BrooklynPapers.com**

• Your ad will appear in all editions of The Brooklyn Papers published during the week in which the ad runs.

• Once ordered, a Classified Ad may NOT be cancelled before its first insertion.

• Ads ordered and paid for by deadline are generally included in the next edition, but sometimes ads may be held for an additional week, based on production and space considerations. The Brooklyn Papers shall be under no liability for its failure for any cause to insert an advertisement.

**CHARGE IT!**



• Ads ordered to run more than one week may be cancelled after the first week. However, while the ad may be cancelled, NO REFUND OR CREDIT will be issued.

• Contract rates for The Brooklyn Classifieds are "rate holders" — no skipped issues permitted.

• Special "package price" and other discounted multiple insertion rates require prepayment for the total number of weeks ordered, may not be cancelled and may not be short rated to achieve a lower rate on renewal.

• In the event of an error in a published ad, please contact The Brooklyn Papers by the first deadline following publication.

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